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COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-second session
4-29 May 1992
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

3. Review of the programme of work of the Committee and suggestions on the timing and duration of its sessions.

4. Programme questions:

   (a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991;

   (b) Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997;

   (c) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995;

   (d) Methodology for the preparation of the programme budget;

   (e) Evaluation;

   (f) Questions related to the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

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5. Coordination questions:

   (a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination;

   (b) System-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development;

   (c) Preparation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001.

6. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations.

7. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

8. Provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Committee.

9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-second session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

At its thirty-first session, the Committee elected a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. At its twenty-fourth session, the Committee decided that, henceforth, the post of Chairman, as well as the other posts on the bureau, should rotate annually among the regional groups. At its twenty-fifth session, the Committee reaffirmed that decision and adopted the following pattern of rotation for the post of Chairman: (a) Group of African States; (b) Group of Eastern European States; (c) Group of Latin American and Caribbean States; (d) Group of Western European and other States; and (e) Group of Asian States. The Committee decided that rotation according to the above pattern had begun in 1984 with the Group of African States. However, it agreed, on an exceptional basis, to select the Chairman of the Committee in 1986 from the Group of Western European and other States, in 1987 from the Group of Asian States and in 1988 from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States. In 1989, the Committee returned to the agreed pattern of rotation and elected the Chairman of the twenty-ninth session from the Group of African States. At its thirty-second session, the Committee may wish to elect the Chairman from the Group of Western European and other States in accordance with the agreed pattern of rotation for the post of Chairman. The Committee also agreed that each year the post of Rapporteur should be occupied by a member of the regional group that had occupied the post of Chairman the previous year.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

Pursuant to paragraph 2 (e) of Economic and Social Council resolution 1979/41 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 34/50, the Committee submitted to the Council and the Assembly for their review the provisional agenda for its thirty-second session, together with the list of documentation requested. The present provisional agenda and list of documentation also take into account decisions taken by the Council and the Assembly since the last session of the Committee.

3. Review of the programme of work of the Committee and suggestions on the timing and duration of its sessions

In section II, paragraph 8 of resolution 1991/67, the Economic and Social Council requested the Committee for Programme and Coordination, bearing in mind the increased workload of the Committee ensuing from the implementation of General Assembly resolution 41/213, to review its programme of work and make suggestions on the timing and duration of its sessions, taking into account the review of the subsidiary machinery in the economic, social and related fields with the possible objective of restructuring and revitalization, which was to be conducted during the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, in accordance with Assembly resolution 45/264. In section VII of resolution 46/189, the General Assembly requested the Committee for Programme and Coordination to review its programme of work in the light of Council resolution 1991/67. It will be recalled that at its thirty-first session, the Committee noted that the timely issuance of documents remained a cause of concern in spite of some improvements and recommended that the question be studied in relation with the process of preparation of the programme budget, the scheduling of its meetings and its reporting procedures to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly.

4. Programme questions

(a) Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991

Regulation 6.1 of the Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation 1/ reads as follows:

> "The Secretary-General shall monitor the delivery of output scheduled in the approved programme budget through a central unit in the Secretariat. After the completion of the biennial budget period, the Secretary-General shall report to the General Assembly, through the Committee for Programme and Coordination, on programme performance during that period."

The Committee will have before it a report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 1990-1991 (A/47/)

(b) Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

By section I of resolution 45/253, the General Assembly adopted the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 and reaffirmed that the plan was the principal policy directive of the United Nations and should serve as a framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budgets. In that resolution, the Assembly endorsed the methodological conclusions and recommendations on the format and content of the plan made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. It reiterated the importance of regulations 4.5 and 4.6 of the Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation regarding the scope and format of the plan and reaffirmed the need for the Secretary-General to review the issues related to the full implementation of the regulations with a view to ensuring proper coverage and presentation of all the activities of the Organization. In the same resolution, the General Assembly welcomed the new simplified programme structure of the plan, and encouraged the Secretary-General to continue the review and analysis of the structure, format and content of the plan, without reducing the content of the programmes and with a view to enhancing the usefulness of the plan as a tool for managing the activities of the Organization, and taking into account the observations made by the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. It requested the Secretary-General to submit the results of the review, together with the revisions to the plan, to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session, through the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-second session and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

In accordance with regulation 4.11 of the Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the Committee will have before it a report of the Secretary-General containing proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997.

Documentation

Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (A/47/)

(c) Outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

In accordance with regulation 3.2 of the Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the Secretary-General is to

submit an outline of the programme budget for the following biennium, which will contain an indication of the following:

(a) Preliminary estimate of resources to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(b) Priorities, reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources.

In accordance with the same regulation, the Committee for Programme and Coordination, acting as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, is to consider the outline of the programme budget and submit its conclusions and recommendations to the Assembly through its Fifth Committee. By resolution 42/211, the Assembly decided that the date for submission of the outline of the programme budget would be 15 August of the off-budget year. The Committee will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995 when it resumes its thirty-second session, from 31 August to 11 September 1992.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the outline of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995

(d) Methodology for the preparation of the programme budget

At its thirty-first session, the Committee for Programme and Coordination concluded that the methodology used for the preparation of the programme budget, including its relation to the outline, should be revised and improved. It recommended that the Secretary-General convene an ad hoc technical seminar to review the question of methodology before the thirty-second session of the Committee. The General Assembly endorsed that recommendation in section VIII of resolution 46/185 B.

Also at its thirty-first session, the Committee recommended that the budget format be restructured, with a view to providing more information on the programmatic content of the budget, greater transparency to Member States, optimum use of resources and more flexibility. The Committee invited the Secretary-General to submit a prototype of a new budget format along those lines to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session through the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. In section VIII of resolution 46/185 B, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination concerning the submission of a prototype of a new budget format.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General concerning the submission of a prototype of a new budget format (A/47/)

(e) Evaluation

In resolution 1985/36, the Economic and Social Council requested the Committee for Programme and Coordination to review the current evaluation timetable and to study the possibility of conducting an in-depth evaluation of the effectiveness, relevance and impact of the United Nations social development activities, with a view to submitting it to the Commission for Social Development. At its twenty-sixth session, the Committee considered the request of the Council and decided to add to its timetable an in-depth evaluation of social development activities for consideration in 1994. Accordingly, the Committee will review at its thirty-second session a progress report on the in-depth evaluation of social development activities.

At its twenty-fourth session, the Committee adopted a timetable for evaluation, according to which it will undertake at its thirty-second session a triennial review of the human rights programme. It will be recalled that at its twenty-ninth session, the Committee reviewed the in-depth evaluation of the human rights programme and took note of the report of the Secretary-General.

At its thirtieth session, the Committee reviewed the progress report on the in-depth evaluation of the major programme on science and technology and requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its thirty-second session a report containing a conclusive analysis, with the contributions of the relevant bodies, identifying options for the future that would include action-oriented proposals for solving the problems identified in the assessments cited in the progress report, including those related to financing, institutional framework and any other problems associated with the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development.

In accordance with regulation 7.4 of the Regulations Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the Committee will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the evaluation role and the application of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives. In this regard, the attention of the Committee is drawn to the relevant sections of General Assembly resolutions 36/228 B, 37/234, 38/227 A and B, 42/215, 43/219 and 44/194 and 45/253.

The Committee will recall that at its twenty-fourth session, it adopted a timetable for evaluation, which covered the years 1986-1992. At its twenty-sixth session, it decided to add to that timetable an in-depth evaluation of the social development programme for consideration in 1994. In accordance with regulation 7.2 of the Regulations and Rules Governing

Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, the Committee will have before it a report of the Secretary-General on the timetable for future in-depth evaluations.

Documentation

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth evaluation of the major programme on social development and humanitarian affairs (E/AC.51/1992/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial review of the human rights programme (E/AC.51/1992/3)

Report of the Secretary-General identifying options and including action-oriented proposals for solving the problems identified in the assessments cited in the progress report on the major programme on science and technology (E/AC.51/1992/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on the programme evaluation in the United Nations: assessment of evaluation activities and proposals for strengthening the role of evaluation (A/47/)

(f) Questions related to the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

In section II of resolution 46/185 B, the General Assembly endorsed the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination contained in paragraphs 41 to 43 of its report on the work of its thirty-first session (A/46/16) on the changes in the staffing table of the organization and requested the Secretary-General to review and develop procedures and norms, including workload analyses, to justify the creation, suppression, reclassification, conversion and redeployment of posts and to submit a report with proposals through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, taking into account section I, paragraph 17 of resolution 45/239 A.

In section IX of resolution 46/185 C, the General Assembly noted the negative growth proposed for section 15 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 over the revised estimates for 1990-1991, stressed the importance of the programme on trade and development in relation with the broad priorities of economic development for developing countries, and requested the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the activities proposed under section 15, including, if necessary, through the redeployment of resources in accordance with established procedures. It also noted the proposals of the Secretary-General to abolish a D-2 post and to redeploy the 12 other posts of programme 13, subprogramme 5 (Trade among countries having different economic and social systems), and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. While recognizing that new mandates and new activities might emerge under section 15 of the programme

budget, the General Assembly decided that the 13 posts under subprogramme 5 should be retained for 1992 with the corresponding appropriation. It requested the Secretary-General to make proposals on those posts for 1993 to the Assembly at its forty-seventh session, taking into account the results of the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other mandates of relevant intergovernmental bodies, and also taking into account the possibility of curtailing activities under the subprogramme mentioned in relation to the statement of programme budget implications for the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s (A/C.5/45/69).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the review and development of procedures and norms, including workload analyses, to justify the creation, suppression, reclassification, conversion and the redeployment of posts (A/47/)

Report of the Secretary-General on posts under section 15 (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development), programme 13, subprogramme 5 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 (A/47/)

5. Coordination questions

(a) Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and preparations for the Joint Meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2008 (LX), the Committee will have before it the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1991.

In seection VI of resolution 46/189, the General Assembly reaffirmed the importance of coordination in the United Nations system and the central role of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, under the leadership of the Secretary-General, in ensuring greater complementary and compatibility of the activities and programmes of the United Nations system. It endorsed the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination, at its thirty-first session, on the annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1990, and it requested the Administrative Committee on Coordination to pursue its efforts to improve its annual reports, taking into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-first session.

At its thirty-second session, the Committee will have before it the report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the twenty-sixth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees.

Documentation

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1991 (E/1992/11 and Add.1)

Report of the Chairmen of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the twenty-sixth series of Joint Meetings of the two Committees (E/1991/143)

(b) System-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development

At its thirtieth session, the Committee requested the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, to prepare a system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development, taking into account the development of the situation, and submit it to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-second session. The methodology and the format to be used in the preparation of the plan should be similar to the one used for the preparation of the plan on drug abuse control, taking also into account the conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraph 146 of the Committee's report on the first part of its thirtieth session (A/45/16). These recommendations were endorsed by both the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1990/83 and the General Assembly in resolution 45/253.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on a system-wide plan of action for African economic recovery and development (E/AC.51/1992/5)

(c) Preparation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001

In resolution 1988/59, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and within existing financial resources, to initiate the formulation of a system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, directed towards the objectives of equality, development and peace, for the period 1996-2001, taking into account the priorities recommended by the Economic and Social Council, the provisions of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the views and decisions of the governing bodies of the organizations of the United Nations system, including the regional commissions, on the content of the plan, as well as experience in developing the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development for the period 1990-1995. In resolution 1989/105 the Economic and Social Council endorsed the timetable prepared by the Secretary-General for the preparation of the plan. The Committee will have before it a report of the Secretary-General containing proposals regarding the framework of the plan, which was prepared in accordance with the timetable.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the preparation of the system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women for the period 1996-2001 (E/1992/6)

6. Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

At its thirty-first session, the Committee stressed its role in the context of the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 41/213, 45/254 and other resolutions on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations. The Committee also noted the measures that were being undertaken in the Secretariat to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Organization and recommended that the search for more efficient and effective organization should be intensified in order to enable the United Nations to achieve its objectives and respond to challenges. The Committee recalled the provisions of General Assembly resolution 45/254 identifying action to be taken by the Secretary-General and requested him to report on a continuing basis to the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the General Assembly on the implementation of those provisions.

7. Reports of the Joint Inspection Unit

At its twenty-fourth session, the Committee decided that reports of the Joint Inspection Unit would, in future, be reviewed first by the Committee as to programming aspects and that, to that end, the Committee should be authorized to examine them even without the written comments of the Secretary-General if they were not available; the comments of the Secretary-General could be made orally to the Committee. That decision was approved by the General Assembly in resolution 39/238. The Committee further decided that at its organizational meeting each year, it would select the Joint Inspection Unit reports to be considered at its regular session of that year from a list of titles to be made available by the Secretariat, including the titles of reports projected for the following two years.

In decision 46/446, the General Assembly expressed concern about the reporting on performance and results of United Nations programmes and invited the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to consider anew the 1988 report of the Joint Inspection Unit in that regard and to report thereon to the Assembly. It noted with concern the late issuance of comments by the executive heads of organizations concerned or the Administrative Committee on Coordination on the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit, and requested the executive heads to observe strictly the time-limits for commenting on Joint Inspection Unit reports as provided for under article 11, paragraph 4 (d) and (e) of its statute. The Assembly decided to conduct at its forty-seventh session the in-depth discussion of the annual reports of the Joint Inspection Unit for 1990/91 and 1991/92 and to consider at the same session the desirability and

possibility of biennializing the agenda item on the Joint Inspection Unit in the context of ongoing efforts to improve the work of the Fifth Committee by, inter alia, biennializing items of the agenda.

Documentation

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Reporting on the performance and results of United Nations programmes: monitoring, evaluation and management review components" and comments of the Secretary-General (A/43/124 and Add.1)

8. Provisional agenda for the thirty-third session of the Committee

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Economic and Social resolution 1894 (LVII), the Committee will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its thirty-third session, with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Committee to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Committee, their urgency and their relevance in the light of the current situation.

In resolution 1979/41, the Council decided that the provisional agendas for its subsidiary bodies, together with the list of requested documentation, should be submitted to the Council for review, in order, inter alia, to establish greater consistency between the documentation of those bodies and the overall documentation requested by the Council and other subsidiary bodies and greater consistency between the requests for documentation and the medium-term plan and the programme budget.

The Council, in resolution 1989/114 on further measures for the implementation of its resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Economic and Social Council, urged its subsidiary bodies to implement fully Council resolution 1979/41 in submitting to the Council, for consideration, their provisional agendas together with the list of requested documentation, with a view to ensuring greater consistency in requests for documentation and improving reporting procedures. In this connection, it will be recalled that the Council has urged all its subsidiary bodies to exercise the utmost restraint in making requests of the Secretary-General for new reports and studies and to implement fully the decisions of the Council and the General Assembly with respect to the control and limitation of documentation (see Council resolutions 1981/83 and 1982/50).

In decision 1983/163, the Council requested the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources and to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-third session of the Committee

9. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its thirty-second session

The report of the Committee on its thirty-second session will be submitted to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1992 and the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

Attention is drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/114, in which the Council requested its subsidiary bodies to highlight policy recommendations and decisions resulting from their deliberations for consideration and appropriate action by the Council.

Notes

1/ General Assembly resolution 37/234, annex; see also the revisions adopted by the Assembly (resolution 42/215) on the recommendation of the Committee for Programme and Coordination contained in Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-second Session, Supplement No. 16 (A/42/16), part two, para. 74, and the text on the contingency fund adopted by the Assembly in resolution 42/211.

Annex

MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION FOR 1992

	Term expires on 31 December
Algeria	1992
Argentina	1992
Bahamas	1994
Brazil	1993
Bulgaria	1993
Burundi	1993
Cameroon	1992
Chile	1993
China	1992
Colombia	1993
Congo	1993
France	1994
Germany	1993
Ghana	1994
India	1993
Indonesia	1993
Iraq	1993
Italy	1993
Japan	1992
Morocco	1992
Netherlands	1993
Nigeria	1993
Norway	1993
Pakistan	1993
Poland	1993
Russian Federation	1994
Sri Lanka	1992
Trinidad and Tobago	1993
Uganda	1993
Ukraine	1993
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1993
United States of America	1994
Uruguay	1994
Zambia	1994